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12 July 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

FROM :

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT :

DCI/DOD Relations

1. I have been advised that inscribed on your calendar for 1600 on Thursday, 15 July, is a gentleman named Wallace Henderson, who plans to brief you on the Defense Department's Washington Military Command Center. Henderson is a very articulate and able gentleman and an excellent salesman. Unless I miss my guess completely, he will be peddling some merchandize which you should examine very carefully before you buy it: a concept of crisis management and control which would have the net effect of giving the DOD tasking authority over many CIA assets -- both human and technical -- and would leave you in a position (in a crisis or wartime situation) which could be most charitably described as ambiguous. Henderson will not put matters this bluntly and will doubtless talk about hardware, communications circuits, flow charts for information and other such matters -- probably accompanied by a dazzling set of highly professional visual aids. Nonetheless, what is described above will be the net effect of the approach he will be representing and at least implicitly advocating.

2. As you are aware -- and at your behest -- I have convened a small task force with appropriate representation from the IC Staff, the NIO structure, and concerned CIA Directorates to view the whole question of the CIA and DCI's role in various types of crises up to and including general war. We should have a set of recommendations to you for your consideration and possible discussion with the CFI before I leave [REDACTED] next month. I would respectfully request that in listening to Henderson you be non-committal and not accept any propositions he advocates which might make useless the work on which my colleagues and I have now embarked on your behalf. I would also respectfully suggest that you include at that session at least one of your associates familiar

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with the background of this matter and the rather complex history involved. [REDACTED] could perform this function admirably, as could [REDACTED]. Said associate's role would not be to take part in the conversation but, instead, to brief you quietly afterward on what Henderson actually meant and what was the history lying behind what he actually said.

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